

The Onyx Informer

Northeastern University

November 1991

The world is our campus

NBSA participates in homecoming weekend

By Shawan Edwards
and Damola Jegede
Onyx Staff

In past years most of Northeastern University's student organizations have participated in the annual homecoming weekend activities. Northeastern Black Student Association has not. Last month all of that changed. For the first time in years, NBSA left their mark on the annual affair.

To kick off the homecoming weekend, the African-American Institute hosted a "Black Reign" tribute to Northeastern University assistant coach Theo Lemon and members of the Husky football team.

Personalized posters decorated the walls of the Cabral Center in the Institute dedicated to the football players who refer to themselves as "Black Reign" because of their intimidating black uniforms.



NBSA's Homecoming float reflected student's enthusiasm for Homecoming Weekend.

Photo by Gail Moore

Director of the AAI, Keith Motley, hosted the tribute and commended the audience for their support of the coach and the players.

"The enthusiasm here is fantastic... I'm waiting for the day when it doesn't matter whether or not you win, it's your attitude," said Motley.

Coach Lemon is certainly familiar with winning football games. He began his coaching career at Kentucky

State University where winning was an attitude. At Central State University, Lemon and the Marauders compiled a 60-5 win loss record. Lemon brought his winning attitude to Northeastern when he was hired by Head Coach Barry Gallup as the defensive coordinator for the Huskies. He is one of two African-American coaches on the staff and is optimistic about the season.

"Our goal is to be the number one team in the country. We want to be in the Division IAA playoffs," said the confident coach.

"It may not happen this year, but it will happen. These guys are winners, not only in football, but in life," he said.

When asked why it was necessary to pay tribute to African-American football players, defensive lineman Chad Robinson said "I feel it is important because we are a reflection of the football team to the black community."

"It also helped introduce

players to the Institute because we are too busy between meetings, practice and school to interact with other students," added Robinson.

At the close of the ceremony, Dean Motley presented Lemon with a "Black Reign" poster designed by Arthur (Cowboy) Brayboy, a defensive back. The poster was signed by the players.

After the reception, devoted students began the hard work of decorating the float. Although the construction of the float was time consuming, the end result displayed the spirit and

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NBSA dancers participate in the Homecoming Weekend for the first time.

Photo by Gail Moore

Justice for Hall



Professor Robert Hall

By Damola Jegede
Onyx Staff

"All roads lead to slavery and the slave trade; the connections are often perverse," says Robert Hall, a professor at Northeastern University in the department of African American Studies.

Hall has written an essay

called "Savoring Africa in the New World" (Food Crops, Medicinal Plants, and the Atlantic Slave Trade). It is part of a collection of essays in the book *Seeds of Change*. The volume is part of the *Columbian Quincentenary Observations of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History*.

The essay discusses the links between the Atlantic slave trade and African crops both indigenous and domesticated. The essay also contains a section called "Nature and Nurture", which discusses the relationship between diet and health.

"The essay is an outgrowth of a project I was working on," says Hall. The project is a book tentatively titled *The*

Atlantic Slave Trade and the Genesis of North American Culture from 1526 to 1810. His purpose in creating this work was to identify a long tradition of agriculture which implies working skills.

"Columbus' voyage had negative impacts on both Africans and Amerindians, such as the devastation of the Amerindian population by disease and conquest and the enslavement of Africans," said Hall. Those who read his works may "pause before celebrating Columbus' voyages."

An excerpt from Hall's essay reads:

Like religion, oral traditions, music, dance, and material culture, cuisine and culinary practices not only survived Africans' capture, the middle passage, and hard servitude but also enriched the cultures of the Americas. Fried chicken, among other southern dishes, reflects this African influence; even the seasoning of southern dishes, often far heavier than in northern recipes, constitutes another African influence. When Americans of any hue sit down to a meal of gumbo,

spicy chicken garnished with peanuts (goobers), black-eyed peas or pigeon peas and rice, cola, and dessert of banana pudding or yam pie sweetened with sorghum molasses, we are savoring a taste of Africa. The vitality of these culinary traditions in the Americas is a testament to the richness of African cul-

tures and to those Africans who shared that richness with their host societies.

"Culture change is a two-way street," explains Hall. "Even if there is a gross unevenness of power, that doesn't mean that change will only be one-way."

In his studies, Hall tries to

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editorials

Striding Towards Self-Reliance

We all want to get ahead. All of us do. Some have the resources to do so, while others are left with only a limited supply. In four years, I've seen many people come and go. Some of them good friends, others only acquaintances. Regardless of that fact, many of them have seemed to silently vanish this university. What is the reason for our brothers and sisters' disappearance? Not surprisingly — lack of funds!

It's no huge secret that a lot of us are not as "well off"

as our white counterparts, leaving us with no alternative but to struggle to make it through college. In fact, many of us scramble around from quarter to quarter or from month to month. Still, determination and an unrelenting sense to persevere marches us forward. NBSA's first annual "finish any way you can" run-a-walk-a-jog-athon was a wonderful theme and a significant step in helping those who have limited resources to tread on. More important-

ly, NBSA's action was a giant step toward self-reliance.

There is a need for African-Americans to become more independent in our approach to our own economic and social problems. The road race sponsored by NBSA was a step toward the self-reliance that, through the years, integration somehow disintegrated. The day that African-Americans realize the true usefulness of self-reliance is the day that our entire race will stand on its own.

— Byron Hurt

Let Us All Give Thanks

As college students we do our share of griping. You know what I mean; we don't have any money, we hate public transportation and miss the cars we left back home, we are tired of the monotonous dormitory food and the lines for DROP/ADD are too long. The whining goes on.

While these frivolous complaints may be valid, let us realize the truth of the matter. We are living a life which many of our brothers and sisters can only dream of living. We are receiving a higher education and that in itself is a blessing.

This holiday season, in-

stead of requesting Aunt Bessie's sweet potato pie and preparing a list of items you can no longer live without, use this time to count your blessings and give some of yourself to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Giving to our community does not entail a lot of time or even energy. Go to your church and donate some clothes or boots (and not just the old out-dated ones you wouldn't be caught dead in). Go to an urban hospital and give some blood. You never know if your blood will be used to save the life of some teenage brother who gets hurt in a car wreck. Go to a

nursing home and bring a smile to the face of some toothless mama whose own children have forgotten her.

If every student and faculty member who reads this editorial makes it a priority to give of themselves this holiday season then victory will be ours. What you do and to what extent you do it is up to you. But please do not ignore this plea or figure your contribution will not help. Your effort will help one of our own and together we can make a difference. Remember the journey of a thousand miles starts with one step.

— Azell Murphy



- The Latin-American Student Organization is sponsoring its first latin based exhibition. The exhibition will be held on Monday November 25, at the African American Institute and Tuesday and Wednesday November 26 and 27, in the Frost Lounge Ell Building from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Individual presentations dealing with different aspects of the Latino culture will be featured. For more information, call Enrique Vinas at 437-2805 or stop by 246 Ell.
- WGBH Channel 2 is looking for Speech Communications and Journalism students to intern for the program Say Brother which airs on the network on Thursday nights at 8:30. If you are interested in the position, call Calvin Lindsey at 492-2777 ext. 2463.
- On Friday, December 6, KWANZAA FEST '91 will begin. Events will occur at various locations throughout the university, starting at 10:30 a.m. Activities will include a Kwanzaa workshop, a clothing drive, an African Marketplace and food by Bob's the Chef. Abiodun Oyelwale will be the featured speaker at 5:30 p.m. at the Institute. For more information on KWANZAA FEST '91, call Karen Johnson at 4919.
- The Minority Senior Committee is looking for minority seniors to participate in planning events for Senior Week. If you are a minority senior who is not yet involved in the Senior Committee, call Janice Hardeman at 859-9456.

A player bids farewell

By Byron Hurt

Sometimes it feels like yesterday, while other times it felt like it would never end. But after a long hard four years, my college football career is abruptly coming to a screeching halt.

As I look back over the past 15 years of my life, I can recall all of the many good times that football has brought me. In those 15 years of playing football there were many great victories and there were numerous valiant defeats. Both the victories as well as the defeats have molded my life in an enormous way.

There are many lessons to be learned from the game football. It teaches you all about the game of life and how to persevere. It teaches you that when you get knocked down you can jump back to your feet without feeling humiliated or degraded that you've fallen. I've seen many football players come and go at Northeastern, all of whom have been impacted by the game in some way or another.

Although there were many emotional highs and lows, my senior year of football has been a very sentimental one. After three long years of feeling the frustration of losing, the football program at Northeastern is finally on the rise because of the efforts of an outstanding new coaching staff who brought in a new attitude to Northeastern. For the first time since high school, playing football was fun for me and the morale of the football team is now at an all-time high.

Although I didn't play often during my senior year, I refused to let my dignity slide or let pride openly get the best of me. Sure the pain of being relegated to the bench in my last year of football sometimes got the best of me, but I refused to let any coach or player take my heart or affection away from the game of football. The game is too special to me and it means far too much to me to let that happen. Instead, I wanted to be an example for others to follow so that in the future, not one of my brothers on the team will allow their heart and soul to be taken by someone or some people who consider you to be "not good enough".

I have many concerns for the underclassman who have years of eligibility remaining on the football roster. Will they have the propensity to remain strong, as I and the few other brothers on the team had when times get hard? Will they be able to lean on each other for strength and support when the road seems long and arduous? Will they survive when the hard work of 6:30 a.m. and afternoon workouts seem to never pay off come game time?

My brothers, take it from someone who has seen it all. If you believe in yourself and if you believe in the power of God, then you most certainly will survive.

As I end my playing days, I wish each and every one of my brothers on the Northeastern University football team success in whatever they do. Never let anyone take your heart away from you. The very second that they do, then they've stolen your ability to survive. The strength of your heart will determine your survival. And remember—football is only a game.

The Onyx Informer

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University Diversity

By Michelle Lance
Onyx Staff

The minority population will increase incredibly in the U.S. by the year 2000, according to a publication by Harold Hodgkinson called "Guess Who's Coming to College".

The issue of multicultural diversity has sky-rocketed at Northeastern University since the beginning of this fall semester. President Curry, faculty, staff and students are trying to introduce all NU members to cultural diversity.

According to President Curry, students at Northeastern must learn to accept cultural diversity. "Our university is like a city and we must learn to live together," said Curry.

Phyllis Schaen Director of Operations for the President and Dean of Administrations believes multicultural diversity is learning to be tolerant. "It is being tolerant of people with different ethnic, racial, cultural and religious backgrounds," said Dean Schaen.

Phyllis Schaen also believes NU has addressed this issue by becoming more diversified. "NU emphasizes that diversity and we are very proud of that in faculty as well as the student body."

Some of the measures

taken by the university to ensure that there is a varied number of types of students who attend NU are changes in admissions. "Admissions are more sensitive in recruiting people of diverse background", said Dean Schaen. "For example we have a recruiter for international students and faculty aware-

ness to such organizations as SOAR," said Schaen.

Society Organized Against Racism (SOAR) is an organization made up of students and faculty. SOAR has also sent students to conferences to see how other colleges are dealing with the issue of multicultural diversity.



Northeastern students unify to emulate what ideal diversity would look like.

Photo by Jeff Craddock

bring issues into classes," she commented.

Another approach to dealing with this issue is to get members of this university involved. "We want to get students to interact with each other in workshops, classes and presentations by

Bringing this issue to the surface will hopefully make everyone aware, and acceptive of their differences. Some of the programs throughout this year will be geared towards cultural diversity. Departments such as Residential Life have developed

together different social attitudes, emotional maturity and well being as well as uniqueness in lifestyle," said Jeanne Steffes an Area Coordinator in the Department of Residential Student Life. "This is what makes resident halls so exciting, because everybody is so different," concluded Steffes.

The department of Freshman Programs has also helped to make incoming students at the university culturally aware. Instead of a long speech about academics, incoming 1991 freshmen received the opportunity to hear famous writer and poet Maya Angelou speak on cultural diversity. Dean Schaen believes bringing a person who symbolizes multicultural diversity to NU will hopefully make that issue important and capture students'.

After the presentation students were separated into smaller groups to meet with facilitators. These students were separated into small groups and were asked to rate the presentation, and according to Dean Schaen, 50% rated Angelou's speech highly useful.

A freshman from Connecticut, who wishes to remain unknown, feels that Angelou was more than a symbol, she was a messenger. "I believe that she got her message across," said the student. "We're freshman in college in the real world of academics. We should take in the whole picture. We should

look at everyone, and care about what others say-realize that other peoples opinions matter."

Students were encouraged by Angelou to get to know someone and talk to that person about cultural diversity. They were urged to take advantage of the different cultures and what they have to offer.

Many students feel that being a part of Northeastern's student body is a plus for their future. These students feel that the experience of people with different backgrounds in their daily lives will definitely help and it exemplifies to them reality.

"NU would help as far as betterment," said Tanya Perkins. "We are in a realistic environment. There is a lot of racism, not only in Boston, but within NU. I believe we can address it, but as far as taking-care of it, it's not going to go away," stated Perkins.

For sophomore Steve McFadden, reality meant experiencing a public school system, other than the Catholic school system. "I went to a Catholic high school," said McFadden. "My teacher suggested that I get out and meet everyone. He said to me 'Don't just go to school with Catholics, don't limit yourself,' and this would better prepare me."

According to McFadden, he experienced reality from his first day as a freshman on Northeastern's campus. "Freshman year, you don't have a choice to separate yourself," said McFadden. "I had a black roommate, and a Chinese roommate. I'm great friends with these guys."

Although awareness and commitment to diversity will help to enjoy our differences as well as be aware of them, students believe that there is a need for more. Improvement in course curriculum may be a factor.

Middler Jeffry Jazzroh believes that there is a need to further educate Northeastern students about diverse cultures. "Northeastern is trying to be culturally diverse - that needs to be worked on," said Jazzroh.

"There are low scale attempts to educate students. We have African-American courses, but we need to focus on everyone. There are students from Paris, Spain, the Dominican Republic, and other countries; we need to have classes about those cultures," said Jazzroh. "Teachers should be aware of the culture they are teaching about. If they are not from there they should be well experienced- not textbook fed."



Smiling for the camera Desi Shelton rides in the parade. Shelton ran for Homecoming Queen.

Photo by Gail Moore

▲ Homecoming Weekend

continued from page 1.

dedication that was put into it. "The united colors of NU, the world is our campus" was the theme of Homecoming 91 and red, black and green were the colors of NBSA.

After the floats ended the parade down Huntington Avenue, onto Parsons Field they went. During half-time of the football game, all homecoming participants flaunted their creations in front of over 6,000 spectators. The NU dancers showed their school spirit by performing in front of the

NBSA float.

NBSA unveiled black t-shirts designed by NBSA president Quan Smith with an inscription written by Kwame Nijjibh. The inscription on the front of the shirt was a message to African-American students encouraging them to finish school. "Time and time again there is no sufficient answer for us. We have now created an answer for ourselves. Continued progress can only be achieved through our relentless pursuit of our goal. Without a desire to struggle, there will never be any answer... So please finish any way you can."

Gary Ezell, treasurer of

NBSA, hopes that the enthusiasm of the African-American student body will continue in the future.

"For the benefit of black students on campus, I hope the efforts and enthusiasm continues in the programs that lie ahead."

▲ Hall

continued from page 1.

look at the role of African traditions in the formation of American culture.



Hall states that African Americanization, the indoctrination of black culture into popular culture, is the engine that drives American cultural change.

"This is not a new phenomena," Hall said, citing the example of "white people sneaking into Harlem to go to the Cotton Club in the sixties." African-Americans see their mannerisms picked up by other cultures and are spurred to create something new and different.

Hall has recently drafted an article called "Illegal Aliens from Africa" which discusses African slaves smuggled into America after the outlawing of slavery in January of 1808.



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A fight to the finish

NBSA makes the message loud and clear. It doesn't matter how you do it as long as you finish.

By Byron Hurt
Onyx Staff

The Northeastern Black Student Association held its first annual "Finish Any Way You Can" run-a-walk-a-jog-a-thon earlier this month raising \$1,500 dollars for the NBSA scholarship fund.

Students, administrators and friends of NBSA all came out to show their support to the organization on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. The day was every runner's dream. The weather was sunny, warm and not a cloud in the sky as 60 participants ran, jogged, or walked their way through a six mile course along the Charles River.

"Finish Any Way You Can" was the theme of the event selected by NBSA President Quan Smith and Kwame Ngzibhh as a representation of how college students are trying to survive financially and academically at Northeastern. The money raised in the event will help alleviate some of the difficulties that some African-American students are facing while they pursue their college education.

"It's just a hard thing to do," said Smith. "The success of the matriculation of students is very important. To



Gary Ezell quenches his thirst after finishing the five-mile course.

Photo by Gail Moore

finish any way you can is the one thing that you can do for yourself."

Although the turn out was less than anticipated, the success was measured by the significance of the event and potential that the event has for the future, as well as the enthusiasm of the participants.

"It has the potential to be one of those events that people will look forward to just like Unity Week or the strepshow," said NBSA member Gary Ezell. "I was very happy with it," he said.

Dean Motley, director of the African-American Institute was equally as enthusias-

tic about the event. Dean Motley displayed his enthusiasm when he predicted his own outcome of the race just before the gun went off.

"I'll be the best faculty member here," said the boisterous Motley. He then approached the race from a serious point of view and said this type of event is very important to the whole African-American community. "I think it's excellent," he said. "If it's anything that takes a moralistic approach to a problem then I'm all for it."

Even the president of NBSA's mother felt that the run-a-walk-a-jog-a-rhon was

a worthy cause. She flew to Boston all the way from Atlanta, Ga. to support her son by participating in the race.

"It was good," said Ms. Smith. I ran about nine miles in 80 minutes because we got lost, but it was still fun. I plan to come back and run again next year," she said.

Both Troy Johnson and Yvel Joseph, members of the Northeastern track team, reached the finish line first, covering the six mile course in 40:23 seconds. To most

race was more important than showing off their skill.

"Yeah, it was an easy run, but we did it for us, the black people," said Johnson. Yvel Joseph agreed with Johnson and said that the race went by kind of smooth because it was a nice day for running.

As the beautiful Sunday afternoon slowly faded to dusk, the last of the participants finally stepped across the finish line and were welcomed by the waiting crowd. Some walked,



Lori Smyth and Mike Greer traveled from Atlanta to participate in the run.

Photo by Gail Moore

track members, covering a distance of six miles is just another workout. But to Johnson and Joseph, the road

others ran, but more importantly, they finished just the way NBSA wanted them to- any way they could.

With the new year comes a new ONYX INFORMER!

At The Onyx Informer we are pleased to announce that our paper will be undergoing a facelift. Keep your eyes peeled for a new Onyx like never before!

The NEW and IMPROVED ONYX INFORMER hits the newstands in January 1992.

See you then and Happy Holidays

Kwanzaa: In the spirit of tradition

Special to The Onyx
By Karen Lea Johnson,
Class of 1986

*Operations Manager,
African-American
Institute*

In 1966, Dr. Maulana Karenga created an African American holiday that celebrated our culture and heritage as African people. It also emphasized the uniqueness of our cultural heritage as African Americans.

The word "Kwanzaa" was derived from the Kiswahili word "kwanza", which means "first". The word "Kwanzaa" spelled with two "a's" means "first fruits" and relates to the concept of the celebration of the harvest. "Although African Americans are essentially an urban people and thus have no crops to harvest, the concept of 'in gathering and celebration' formed the basis for Kwansaa" (Institute of Positive Education, p.1).

Contrary to popular belief, Kwansaa is not a holiday that originated in Africa, nor is it celebrated on the continent. However, Karenga did use the concept of traditional harvest celebrations of agricultural peoples in Africa to formulate the basis for the African American holiday of Kwanzaa. "Kwanzaa is a time for the gathering of our people, celebration of ourselves, and our achievements and rededication to greater achievement and fuller, more meaningful lives in the future" (IPE, p.1).

Kwanzaa is celebrated annually from December 26th to January 1st and has its foundation in the practice of the Nguzo Saba, the Seven Principles of Nation Building. These principles are Umoja which means unity, Kujichagulia which means self determination, Ujima which means collective work and responsibility, Ujamaa which means cooperative economics, Nia which means purpose,

Kuumba which means creativity and Imani which means faith. These are seven positive VALUES that EVERYONE, regardless of ethnic, cultural or religious background can practice.

My first exposure to Kwanzaa came through the African-American Institute while I was a student here at NU. At first, I was a little confused and of course uninformed. I too, like many of you, had not heard of Kwanzaa until I came to college. It was something I had not been exposed to during my childhood in any of the so-called traditional settings (church, home or school). I had also heard many of the same rumors: "Oh Kwanzaa, that is an African Christmas"....Or, "Yeah, that's that militant Black thing that they do at the Afro-American Cen-ter." This I heard from BLACK FOLKS! Well, I am very fortunate that curiosity got the best of me!

Since I have begun my practice of Kwanzaa with my NU family, I have had the honor of meeting Julian Bond, Gwendolyn Brooks and Abiodun Oyewole. I have had the pleasure of performing and participating in Kwanzaa programs. And now, it is my privilege and my job (smile) to work you to plan, promote and celebrate Kwanzaa!

The Kwanzaa holiday celebrates its 25th anniversary this December. Please be a part of this year's Kwanzaa Fest '91! So in the spirit of the Nguzo Saba, "Harambee!" —Let's continue to work together.

Peace.

Editor's Note

The Onyx Informer staff acknowledges and apologizes for the typographical errors in October's edition. Please look forward to future issues which will be published for your reading pleasure.

Speaking Out What downsizing NU means to me

By Lori Nelson
Onyx Staff

Desizing is the name of an issue which would mean making Northeastern's campus smaller, providing it with an opportunity to compete with other Ivy League schools based on a new educational system.

The new system will toughen academics and weaken social activities. A stronger emphasis would be placed on student academic performance and students who can not perform will be asked to withdraw from the university.

What this means for Northeastern's students of color is that every min-

"Every minority student better get your act together if you are slacking off."

ority student better get their act together if you are slacking off. Each year it becomes harder for minorities to make it at Northeastern for one reason or another. If students felt the past has been rough, I say, watch out for the future.

A representative from

the Career Development Office said earlier this month that statistics show that African-Americans are the least represented group on this campus. To me, this revelation means that we are either here as status quos or we are here temporarily and will be forced to leave.

The desizing of NU could be our ticket to walk. A word of advice to students of color at Northeastern; strive hard for your goals, academically as well as socially. Our grades speak for us and they determine whether or not we stay at Northeastern or become one of the many who will be turned away due to desizing.

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FRESH HAM - LIVERS - BABY BEEF
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- VEAL PATTY - MEAT ON THE BONE
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BLACK FACT

PRINCE HALL
ARRIVED IN BOSTON IN
1765 FROM BARBADOS.
LATER HE FOUGHT IN THE
AMERICAN WAR OF
INDEPENDENCE AGAINST
THE BRITISH AND
ESTABLISHED THE FIRST
BLACK MASONIC LODGE
IN AMERICA.

Onyx Advice Line

Dear Uzura,

I am going to start this letter by saying I am TIRED of the cliques on our campus.

I have been at Northeastern for three years and every year, a new clique arrives. I really do not understand why brothers and sisters can not be friendly to one another. Several black students talk about our UNITY, but do we really have UNITY or HYPOCRISY?

I have tried to be friends with all my brothers and sisters but they seem to think they are better than me.

How should I go about telling them they "ain't all of that" because they are unable to relate to all of their people.

Sincerely,

Your own brother or sister.

Dear Brother or Sister,

You seem to be very upset. It is interesting to hear someone feels NU's black students are phony. Maybe black students on campus should work on their communication skills.

If all black people would begin to talk and get to know each other we would be united, although there will always be one person who feels they are too good and think they ARE "all of that".

My advice to you is to keep trying to become friendly with your fellow students because as a race we need brothers and sisters who want to be united.

Student On The Move

By Azell Murphy
Onyx Staff

Student of the month recommended by Dean Motley.

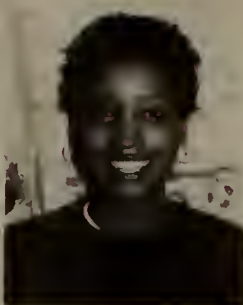
There is an old saying which goes: "the world is made up of three kinds of people; those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wondered what happened." If this is true, then senior Janice Hardeman is one such person who makes things happen.

When Hardeman realized, after seeing three classes before hers graduate, that the needs of minority seniors were not being catered to during Senior Week, she decided this year would be different.

Driven by a desire to make Senior Week more enjoyable for all seniors, the psychology major initiated a minority subcommittee to consult with the Senior Week Committee which is comprised almost exclusively of whites.

"You can not satisfy all seniors if the committee which plans Senior events is predominantly white because they will approach the activities from their point of view, leaving others to dance by their music (pardon the pun)," said Hardeman.

"This subcommittee gives minority students a voice in



With two projects underway, Hardeman has her hands full.

arranging senior activities. We express our concerns about everything from music, to what speaker should speak at the commencement to where the Senior Ball should be held," she added.

"get involved because it is imperative that positive black people contribute their time and energy to their community."

Creating a committee where there was no blacks has not been easy, but Hardeman has not given up. The biggest obstacles for Hardeman have been soliciting involvement from minority seniors and generating

finances.

"This is going to be something that hopefully the class of 1993 and all classes thereafter will want to continue. I hope to be able to leave the next class with some sort of foundation to continue building on."

Hardeman plans to do her graduate work at the University of Southern California after graduating from Northeastern University. She advises black students to "get involved because it is imperative that positive black people contribute their time and energy to their community."

Along with the load of forming the subcommittee, Hardeman is also busy trying to provide young black girls with role models. Hardeman introduced the Mary McLeod Bethune Institute to Northeastern. The program is designed to help young girls between the ages of 3-12 or more specifically girls in grades 3-5. In this program black female students and professional black women will be mentors to the children, helping them with their academics and personal endeavors. "I encourage all black females to get involved in this program because this is a way that you can give back not only to your community but to young females who need positive female role models."

Looking In, Looking Out Athletes learn dealing with sacrifice, stereotypes is just part of the game

Byron P. Hurt
Onyx Staff

Tusharka Chapman is a prime example of an exceptional student-athlete. Chapman, blessed with speed at an early age, always knew that she was different from most kids. At age 10 she was already one of the most athletic kids in her neighborhood in Newark, New Jersey. At Science High School in New Jersey, she wasn't quite sure if she was cut out for college. But after a little persuasion from her high school coach, Chapman decided that college might not be a bad idea. The University of Kentucky, Seton Hall, Ohio State and other schools all tempted Chapman with track scholarships, but when Northeastern University

called, Tusharka Chapman answered.

"I never heard of Northeastern University until I came here on my recruiting trip," said Chapman. Co-op and the city environment attracted me and it wasn't too far from home," she said.

When the time came for Chapman to "leave the nest", she made a promise to herself that she wouldn't let track and field be her only priority. But once she got settled in at Northeastern, it didn't take long for her to realize that student-athletes, no matter how intelligent, were looked at differently than regular students on campus.

"A lot of times people look at you as less knowledgeable than they are because you are an athlete," said Chapman. "They feel as though you are



Tusharka Chapman knows that an education is top priority.

just getting over because you're on scholarship. They don't realize that we are paying for our education. We literally sweat it out every day, two hours a day. It's a lot of hard work."

Chapman is quickly



Senior George Robinson has time on his hands now that his playing days are over.

Photo by J.D. Levine

dispelling the age-old stereotype that African-American student-athletes are nothing more than "dumb jocks" who are sitting in college courses only because of their physical gifts. She made the dean's list three

times in her freshman year at Northeastern and now maintains a 2.9 grade point average.

"My top priority is my education," said the articulate young tracker. "If

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Do you believe in Magic?

By Azell Murphy
Onyx Staff

If ever a nickname was indicative of its beholders identity, "Magic" certainly consummates Earvin Johnson's persona.

Magic earned his title in 1979, after a high school sports reporter watched him score 36 points, collect 18 rebounds, give 16 assists and make 20 steals.

Magic has been living up to his title ever since those high school days.

He has changed the way basketball is played, he has donated a good amount of his fortune to charity, he has made several wise business ventures and now, in the wake of personal devastation and at a time when privacy would have declared most people, he has taken on the responsibility of educating the world to the serious threat which having unprotected sex can lead to: contraction of the HIV virus, the virus which causes AIDS, the virus which Magic has

contracted.

It is the type of news which will never allow you to forget where you were and what you were doing when you first heard it.

It is the type of news which makes you do some Godly questioning and soem personal reflecting.

The facts are simple though; all of us who have had sex is at risk. Moreover, it is rational to see how a star athlete whose days are filled with beautiful women could come across that one woman

who is HIV positive. After all, anyone can catch the virus.

As rational as the facts may be, still our hearts cry out "Why Magic Johnson?" Magic Johnson is a magnificent basketball player but more than that he is a warmhearted and likeable person. And admirably, Magic seems to be answering that question for us.

"Here I am saying it can happen to anybody, even me, Magic Johnson...Sometimes you get a little naive about it and you say it could never happen to you, and that it can only happen to other people..." he said.

Johnson is working his Magic once again. He has chosen to take a courageous stand and put America in touch with a problem that it has been avoiding. With Magic as a spokesperson, AIDS education has a good shot at spreading faster than the disease itself.

Earvin Johnson was pushed onto the road less traveled and now is the time when our prayers will mean the most. We have to concentrate on the positive message that young Americans are getting out of this tragedy. But most of all we must never stop believing in Magic.

▲ Student Athletes at NU

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it came down to having a championship meet or having an accounting test, I would choose my test before running in the championship meet."

Keith McDermitt, Assistant Director of Academic Advisor for Athletics, provides academic support for individual athletes at North-eastern. McDermitt ran track at Springfield College and agrees that not all athletes should be labeled as "dumb jocks" who take puff courses.

"The perception that all student-athletes being dumb jocks is not true," said McDermitt. "Only a small percentage of them actually are. Our student-athletes graduate at a much higher rate than regular students at Northeastern, much higher than 15 percent higher."

The fact that college athletes are highly visible is a major reason why athletes who do fail, tarnish the images of those athletes who don't.

"People tend to generalize all student-athletes as students who don't take academics seriously, which is unfair to those students who do," said McDermitt. "The emphasis is placed so heavily into the athletes' individual sport that not enough attention is given to the student-athletes who excel in school. A lot of our student-athletes are not taken for their academic achievements and that's a shame for college athletics."

Lin Dawson, captain of Project Teamwork at Northeastern University Center of Sport and Society agrees that student-athletes are one of the most misunderstood group of students on college campuses.

"Regular students will never understand what student-athletes go through," said Dawson. "The demands are so much greater."

On the subject of student-athletes, Dawson speaks from

experience. He played college football at North Carolina State University from 1977-1981 and then went on to play tight-end for the New England Patriots for 10 years. Now, one of his primary goals is to help student-athletes understand their role at major universities.

"We (athletes) are trading our skills for an education," said the former Patriot. "It's basically a barter. What the university gets out of the student is what the student should get out of the university."

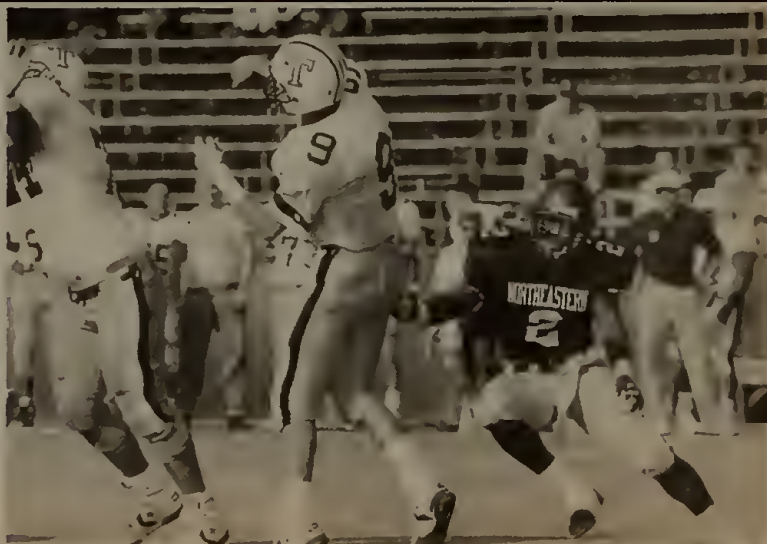
Still, it's no small wonder that some African-American student-athletes perform poorly in the classroom after spending what some athletes consider too much time on the practice field. Daily afternoon practices leaves little or no room for athletes to get involved in anything else outside of their sport.

"College athletics takes up more time than most people think," said Carlton Aiken, a junior on the Northeastern University football team. "Football took up more time than I anticipated coming out of high school. In high school, a sport may be mandatory but optional. In college, when your on scholarship, everything is mandatory," said the 190 lb. defensive back.

Aiken was also recruited by Northeastern to be a student-athlete. Temple and East Carolina also offered scholarships, but when the decision had to be made, Aiken decided on Northeastern.

"Some people think we don't take books seriously just because we're athletes," said Aiken. "They think you're just a dumb black jock. I think there's some resentment and sometimes I don't blame them."

Northeastern is not a cheap school and some people believe the money should be used for more productive things," he said. Aiken



Carlton Aiken (2) en route to a Towson State quarter-back. Aiken can not wait until he can become more involved in school activities.

admits that although his education is paid for, by no means does he believe that he is here at no expense.

"There's no way in the world that we are here on a free ride," he said. "A lot of us pay dearly. Football is an aggressive sport. You spend all day playing football and then you have to study. It's hard."

In spite of all of the time and the hard work that football brings, Aiken realizes that being a student is twice as important than being an athlete. He also knows that being an African-American magnifies the significance of a college education.

"I want my knowledge as a black man to carry me further than football," said Aiken. "Anything can happen on the football field."

Aiken said that after his athletic eligibility is completed, he'll have his fifth year in school to catch up on all of the African-American activities that he's missed out on. He's looking forward to the day when time will allow him to be a "regular student" so that he can become a devoted participant.

Many athletes say that not being able to participate in most of the African-American organizations on

campus further widens the gap between African-American students and African-American student-athletes. In fact, a lot of African-American students want to be more involved, but both athletics and academics stand in the way.

"My free time is spent on the track," said Chapman. "Although we would like to get involved in a lot more African-American activities, we just can't because time doesn't allow it. Just don't count us out because we are not there."

Sacrificing is all part of the game for most college athletes. The demands of athletics and academics forces many athletes to realize early in their careers that a social life is almost dead last on the college life totem pole.

"I missed out of a lot of things my freshman year here because of football," said Aiken. "I missed all of the meetings with black freshmen at the African-American Institute. I didn't meet Dean Motley until winter quarter."

Instead of being an active part of organizations on campus, college athletes tend to socialize only with teammates or other athletes.

"There is a great deal of separatism on campus, but as

Photo by Ross Sparkman

athletes we don't have a choice," said Aiken. "Football is your club or organization. You just can't get involved."

Aiken has advice for athletes who are having trouble juggling academics with athletics.

"Time is of essence. Take one day at a time and do as much as you can. Take advantage of getting a free education, and don't get too sidetracked. "Don't let the project get in front of the principal and everything else will fall into place."

And to those who who generalize all athletes as being "dumb jocks"?

"Really get to know the person first," said Aiken. "Don't go on what people say or think. Realize that athletes do pay, and if you think it's easy, just try it for yourself."

McDermitt feels strongly that when it comes to judging student-athletes, people are quick to give them a bad rap. But as far as he is concerned, college athletes are passing the test far more than failing.

"That's the real accomplishment," said McDermitt. "After that, nothing else really counts."